

City of Petaluma

Proclamation

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY - AUGUST 26, 2024

WHEREAS, Women's Equality Day was established in 1971 through a Joint Resolution of Congress, with the date of August 26 being chosen in commemoration of the passage of the 19th Amendment and in celebration of the United States suffrage movement; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors established one of the first Commissions on the Status of Women in the State of California, with the purpose of promoting “equal rights and opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls” and addressing “issues of discrimination and prejudice that negatively affect women in Sonoma County;” and

WHEREAS, women now constitute nearly 50 percent of our workforce, the majority of the students in our colleges and graduate schools, and an increasing number of primary breadwinners; however, in 2023-2024, Sonoma County women working full time earned 86% of what men earned and those women working in agriculture and service areas earned even less; and

WHEREAS, even with the gains women have made, they continue to face an array of gender-related disparities in many areas, including employment earnings, economic security, and personal safety and healthcare; these disparities play a major role women being proportionally underrepresented in positions of power, such as corporate leadership and elected office; and

WHEREAS, women and girls have long rallied to demand equal rights and equal respect; this Women's Equality Day, we endeavor to “invest in women and girls to accelerate the progress” of our community and country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Kevin McDonnell, Mayor of Petaluma, along with the members of the City Council, in recognition of the efforts to achieve equal rights under the law for women and the critical position of women in American society, recognize August 26, 2024 as Women's Equality Day in Petaluma.

Kevin McDonnell, Mayor

Caitlin Corley, City Clerk